

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 944

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor Nathan Lorin Morrow of the United States Marines.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, thousands of Tennesseans continue this time-honored tradition of volunteerism through service in the United States Military today; and

WHEREAS, one such courageous Volunteer, Lance Corporal Nathan Lorin Morrow of the United States Marines, was recently injured in Iraq while defending the interests of our Nation and pursuing freedom and democracy for the people of Iraq and a safer world for us all; and

WHEREAS, born in Elizabethton on March 21, 1981, he is the son of Lee and Lisa Morrow and the brother of Lindsey and Lydia Morrow; he is a 2000 graduate of Elizabethton High School and studied at East Tennessee State University; and

WHEREAS, this brave patriot answered the call of duty in 2000 and quickly developed a reputation for excellence as he completed basic training at Parris Island, South Carolina, graduating in August of that year; and

WHEREAS, assigned to the Marine Reserve, Weapons Platoon, Lima Company in Gray, he earned the respect and admiration of his peers for the unsurpassed quality of his professionalism and service; and

WHEREAS, in January 2004, he was called into active duty with Weapons Platoon, Lima Company, 3rd battalion, 24th Marines, 1st Marine Division; after training at Camp Pendleton, California, he was deployed to Iraq; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2004, this gallant warrior was the machine gunner in the lead humvee of a column when his vehicle was hit by an improvised explosive device; he took the brunt of the blast, sustaining injuries to his head, face, neck, and shoulder and a broken jaw; and

WHEREAS, Nathan Lorin Morrow faced his injuries with courage and strength that have come to be expected from this exceptional young man; and

WHEREAS, Major Don R. Avant, Commanding Officer of Lima Company, commented in a letter to the Morrows, "I personally spoke to your son while he was in the ER, and he was in good spirits while being attended to by the medical staff. You'd be extremely proud of your son. When I touched his face and told him that he was going home, he turned to me and replied, 'Sir, I don't want to go home!' The colonel beside me remarked, 'Where do we get such men?' Lance Corporal Morrow is an outstanding Marine, and I'm proud to serve with him. I pray for his safe return to your family"; and

WHEREAS, this valiant Tennessean has created an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in military life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all his chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to recognize this exceptional soldier and human being and thank him for serving as an inspiration to the people of Tennessee; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Lance Corporal Nathan Lorin Morrow for his laudable service to this State and our Nation, reflect fondly upon his impeccable character, his limitless courage, and his stalwart commitment to the defense of his nation as a member of the United States Marines, and join with his family and friends in praying for the safe return of Lance Corporal Morrow and his fellow Marines.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.